

In the Claims:

1. (Currently amended) An audio system for use with an audio source that provides an input audio signal and for use with acoustic sources, each acoustic source broadcasting a source identification signal, the system comprising:

an acoustic source to combine an identification signal with the input audio signal to produce an output audio signal, the identification signal being different with respect to each other source identification signal for identifying the acoustic source; and

a remote control device to control the acoustic source, to receive the output audio signal, and to distinguish the acoustic source from the other acoustic source[[s]] based on the identification signal being different with respect to each other source identification signal.

2. (Previously presented) An audio system as claimed in Claim 1, further comprising another acoustic source configured to combine another identification signal that is different from the each other source identification signal with the input audio signal to produce another output audio signal, wherein the remote control device is configured to receive the other output audio signal and to distinguish between the acoustic source and the other acoustic source based on the identification signals, and wherein the identification signal included within the output audio signal is arranged to be inaudible.

3. (Previously Presented) An audio system as claimed in claim 1, wherein the input audio signal is modulated with the identification signal.

4. (Currently amended) An audio system as claimed in claim 1, wherein the identification signal comprises a pseudo-random noise signal.

5. (Previously Presented) An audio system as claimed in claim 1, and including circuitry to determine the distance between the acoustic source and the remote control device.

6. (Previously Presented) An audio system as claimed in Claim 5, wherein the circuitry to determine the said distance is responsive to a timed receipt of the identification signal.

7. (Previously Presented) An audio system as claimed in Claim 6, wherein the remote control device is arranged to generate a timing reference signal and transmit the timing reference signal to the acoustic source.

8. (Previously Presented) An audio system as claimed in Claim 6, wherein the acoustic source is arranged to produce a timing reference signal and to transmit an indication of the timing reference signal to the remote control unit.

9. (Previously Presented) An audio system as claimed in claim 5, wherein the said distance between the acoustic source and the remote control device is determined on the basis of the timed receipt of the audio output signal from the acoustic source at the remote control device.

10. (Previously Presented) An audio system as claimed in claim 1, wherein the remote control unit is arranged to transmit a controlling signal to the acoustic source serving to control the volume of the output audio signal in a manner responsive to a change in distance of the remote control device from the acoustic source.

11. (Previously Presented) An audio system as claimed in Claim 10, wherein the change in distance is determined on the basis of a change in magnitude of the output audio signal as received at the remote control device.

12. (Previously Presented) An audio system as claimed in claim 1, further comprising circuitry to determine the position of the remote control device relative to the acoustic source on the basis of the identification signal received at the remote control device.

13. (Previously presented) An audio system as claimed in Claim 12, wherein the acoustic source is arranged to provide a respective output audio signal on at least two output

channels, the acoustic source configured to combine a first identification signal with the input audio signal to produce the output audio signal provided on one of the output channels and to combine a second different identification signal with the input audio signal to produce the output audio signal provided on the other one of the output channels, and wherein the remote control device is configured to receive the output audio signals provided on the two output channels and to distinguish between the output audio signals based on the first and second identification signals.

14. (Previously presented) An audio system as claimed in Claim 13, wherein the remote control device is arranged to transmit a signal to the acoustic source serving to vary the output from at least one of the said channels in response to the determined position of the remote control device relative to the acoustic source, and wherein the output audio signals provided on the two output channels are left and right channels of stereo music.

15. (Previously Presented) An audio system as claimed in Claim 13, wherein the remote control device is arranged to transmit a signal to the acoustic source serving to vary the output from at least one of the said channels in response to a change in position of the remote control device relative to the acoustic source.

16. (Previously presented) An audio system as claimed in Claim 15, further comprising
a plurality of acoustic sources arranged to be located in a spaced relationship,
each of the acoustic sources configured to combine a different identification signal with the input audio signal to produce a respective output audio signal, each of the different identification signals uniquely identifying one of the acoustic sources; and
circuitry to hand-over the audio signal output there-between responsive to a control signal from the remote control device, the remote control device being arranged to generate the control signal responsive to determination of the change in location of the remote control device relative to the said plurality of acoustic sources, wherein the remote control device is configured to receive the output audio signals from each of the acoustic sources and to distinguish between the acoustic sources based on the different identification signals.

17. (Previously Presented) An audio system as claimed in claim 1, wherein the acoustic source is arranged such that the identification signal is included within the output audio signal and with a relatively high carrier frequency.

18. (Original) An audio system as claimed in Claim 17 wherein the carrier frequency comprises at least a low ultrasound frequency.

19. (Currently amended) A method of controlling an acoustic source arranged for outputting an audio signal, the method comprising:

combining an identification signal with an input audio signal to produce an output audio signal, the identification signal identifying the acoustic source;

receiving, at a remote control device arranged for control of the acoustic source, the output audio signal and another output audio signal that includes identification data for identifying another acoustic source;

processing, by the remote control device, the received output audio signals to identify the acoustic source and to distinguish the acoustic source from other acoustic sources based on the identification signals; and

transmitting a control signal from the remote control device to the identified acoustic source.

20. (Currently amended) A method as claimed in Claim 19, further comprising

combining another identification signal that is different from the identification signal with the input audio signal to produce the other ~~another~~ output audio signal, the other identification signal identifying the other ~~another~~ acoustic source;

receiving, at the remote control device, the other output audio signal;

processing, by the remote control device, the received output audio signals to distinguish the acoustic source from the other acoustic sources based on the identification signals; and

transmitting a first control signal from the remote control device to the acoustic source and transmitting a second different control signal from the remote control device

to the other acoustic source, wherein the identification signal included within the output audio signal is arranged to be inaudible.

21. (Previously Presented) A method as claimed in claim 20, wherein the input audio signal is modulated with the identification signal.

22. (Currently amended) A method as claimed in claim 19, wherein the identification signal comprises a pseudo-random noise signal.

23. (Previously Presented) A method as claimed in claim 19, further comprising determining a distance between the acoustic source and the remote control device.

24. (Previously Presented) A method as claimed in claim 23, wherein the remote control unit is arranged to transmit the control signal to the acoustic source to control the volume of the output audio signal in a manner responsive to a change in the distance of the remote control device from the acoustic source.

25. (Previously Presented) A method as claimed in claim 24, wherein the change in distance is determined on the basis of a change in magnitude of the output audio signal as received at the remote control device.

26. (Previously Presented) A method as claimed in claim 19, further comprising determining a position of the remote control device relative to the acoustic source on the basis of the identification signal received at the remote control device.

27. (Currently amended) An acoustic source for use in an audio system which includes an audio source that provides an input audio signal, other acoustic sources and a remote control device that controls the acoustic sources responsive to respective output audio signals provided by each of the acoustic sources, the acoustic source comprising:

 circuitry to combine an identification signal with the input audio signal to produce one of the output audio signals, the identification signal received from the remote control

device and identifying the acoustic source and distinguishing the acoustic source from the other acoustic sources based on the identification signal being different from an identification signal included in another output audio signal; and
circuitry to provide the one output audio signal to the remote control device.

28. (Canceled)

29. (Currently amended) A remote control device for controlling an output audio signal provided by an acoustic source, the acoustic source combining an identification signal with an input audio signal to produce the output audio signal, the identification signal indentifying the acoustic source, the remote control device comprising:

circuitry, including an antenna, to receive the output audio signal along with another audio signal including a source identification signal to identify another acoustic source;

circuitry, including a processor, to process the received output audio signal to identify the acoustic source and to distinguish the acoustic source from other acoustic sources based on the identification signals; and

circuitry, including a transmitter, to transmit a control signal to the identified acoustic source.

30. (Currently amended) A remote control device as claimed in claim 29, wherein the remote control device is configured to store data that uniquely indentify ~~identifies~~ a plurality of acoustic sources relative to each other, and the remote control device further configured to compare the identification signal received from the acoustic source to the stored data to distinguish the acoustic source from the other acoustic sources.

31. (Cancelled)

32. (New) A remote control device for controlling an output audio signal provided by an acoustic source, the acoustic source combining an identification signal with an input

audio signal to produce the output audio signal, the identification signal indentifying the acoustic source, the remote control device comprising:

circuitry, including an antenna, to receive the output audio signal;

circuitry, including a processor that stores data to differentiate identification signals of respective acoustic appliances, to process the received output audio signal to identify the acoustic source and to distinguish the acoustic source from other acoustic sources based on the identification signal; and

circuitry, including a transmitter, to transmit a control signal to the identified acoustic source.